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ESTABLISHMENT AND DEFENSE OF BORDERS
OF THE ALBANIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

On the basis of Article 58, Paragraph 6 of the Constitution of the Albanian People's Republic and on the government's proposal, the Presidium of the People's Assembly on 4 September 1952 issued the following decree, on the establishment and defense of the borders of the Albanian People's Republic.

Article 1

The border line of the Albanian People's Republic shall be fixed or altered by decree of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of the Albanian People's Republic.

Article 2

The border line of the Albanian People's Republic is fixed:

- a. On land, by artificial markings or natural objects.
- b. On water, by marks on the geographic map. A border line which passes along the center of a river or lake remains unalterable, even if the river or lake changes its channel.

Article 3

In peace, the defense of the state border is carried out by the border forces of the Ministry of the Interior. Collaboration of the border forces with units of the People's Army is effected on the basis of joint orders issued by the Ministry of the People's Defense and the Ministry of the Interior.

Article 4

The duties of the border forces are as follows:

- a. To ensure the inviolability and the territorial integrity of the Albanian People's Republic from any foreign aggression.
- b. To prevent and liquidate any attempt by smugglers, spies, subversives, and other criminals to enter into and depart from the state or to move within the border zone.
- c. To defend the population of the border zones from enemies of the people.
- d. To guard the property of the state within the territorial waters of the republic.

Article 5

To protect the state borders, the following zones are established:

- a. The border belt 500 meters deep within the territory of the Albanian People's Republic, along its territorial and maritime borders, excluding districts determined by the Ministry of the Interior.

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b. The border zone, which includes all villages along the land border, in conformity with the list approved by the Ministry of the Interior, as well as the inhabited localities of Konispol, Bilisht, Pogradec, and Tropeje.

c. The zone of territorial waters, which includes the waters of the sea for a distance of 10 miles from the coast, the waters of the Corfu Canal up to half the width of the canal, waters of lakes up to the state borders established on the geographic map of the republic, and the waters and bed of the Buna River up to half the width of this river.

Article 6

The 500-meter border belt (Article 5, Paragraph a) along the whole land border and sea border is called a military zone. In this zone, no one may move, excepting persons in the border service and persons possessing a special permit from the border authorities. The ground, woods, and waters in this zone may be utilized by special permit from the border authorities. Taxes on farm units and obligatory deliveries of agricultural produce from holdings wholly or partly within the 500-meter border belt may be reduced as deemed proper by the executive committee of the rrreth people's council, which must consult with the border authorities before deciding on the merits of the case.

Article 7

The border zone (Article 5, Paragraph b) must be kept under the constant surveillance of the border forces. To enter this zone, it is necessary to obtain beforehand a written authorization from the internal administration authorities in the appropriate rrreth.

Article 8

Navigation on Territorial waters may be effected with the permission of border authorities.

Article 9

Passage across the state borders of the Albanian People's Republic is permissible only at the border block posts of the Ministry of the Interior, administered and directed by the border forces, excepting cases in which the Ministry of the Interior has issued different orders. Animals which cross the border alone, without their owners, will be seized by the border guards. They become state property and are to be delivered to the executive committee of the rrreth people's council [in whose jurisdiction they were found] or are to be turned back to the neighboring country from which they came.

Article 10

In the fulfillment of their duties, border guards may resort to use of firearms, in conformity with the directives of the Ministry of the Interior.

Article 11

Persons who violate the provisions of this decree will be punished in conformity with the penal code.

However, persons who violate the regulations in regard to the system of port permits, and the regulation on the boarding of national or foreign ships during their stay in port, when no other criminal action is involved, will be punished in conformity with the law on contraventions by a fine of 100-3,000 leks.

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Article 12

The Ministry of the Interior is charged with the enforcement of this decree and issuance of the necessary directives.

Article 13

This decree will come into force 10 days after publication in Gazeta Zyrtare (Official Gazette).

Tirana, 4 September 1952
Decree No 1,535

For the Presidium of the People's Assembly
of the Albanian People's Republic

President, Dr. Omer Nishani

Secretary, Sami Baholli

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